

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
LARKSPUR, CALIFORNIA

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, today I rise with great pleasure to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of Larkspur, California, one of the most beautiful cities in my district, and one of only three cities whose distinctive character have gained them listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Larkspur received this official recognition because it typifies the smalltown look of turn-of-the-19th century California.

From its origins as part of a Mexican land grant through its logging days to its late 19th century status as a risqué resort, Larkspur became just a small town where the well-off came to escape the freezing San Francisco summers.

Larkspur, like many Marin County towns, evolved after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. "What really started Larkspur was the earthquake," explains Helen Heitkamp, member of the city's Heritage Preservation Board and a local historian who helped write the book *Larkspur Past & Present, A History & Walking Guide*. "After the earthquake, the people who had summer cottages came to stay and that started that first big push."

But becoming a city wasn't as easy as it sounds, says Mayor Kathy Hartzell.

"They held their vote in August, 1907 and in February 1908, the county said OK. On March 1, 1908 the city was incorporated." However, one of the town's leading residents, Jean Escalle, brought suit against the city on the grounds there was inadequate notification of the election and the polls closed too early! It wasn't until 1911 that the courts ruled in favor of Larkspur. Escalle, by the way, went on to serve as a city council member, the mayor notes.

Noted for its beautiful setting, the Larkspur of the early 20th century wasn't as pretty as it is today. Clear-cut logging had decimated the forests and denuded the hillsides. In fact, says Heitkamp, "when the city was first formed, you needed a permit to cut trees because the hills were bare and they were trying to grow trees."

At that time, too, the original highway was mapped so that the main street through downtown Larkspur—called Magnolia Avenue—served as the major access road for much of Marin. Its character now, through restrictions by the Historic Register, looks much the same as it did 100 years ago.

A walk along Magnolia Avenue—from Mission Revival-style City Hall to the 1930s Art Deco-style Lark Theater three blocks away—encompasses the history of Larkspur. Along the way is the false-front building where the Silver Peso, the town's only bar, now resides. Built in 1890 as a blacksmith's shop, its walls still show the original double doors where wagons and buggies came in and out. The building next to it—the one that now houses the pool table—was the city's first firehouse. On the corner down the street stands the Blue Rock Inn, built in 1895, whose rooms have since been converted to apartments. On the street level, celebrities can often be seen dining at the sidewalk tables of its French res-

taurant, the Left Bank Brasserie. Downtown Larkspur, also designated as a State historic site, spans more than a century of architecture.

Preservation efforts begun in the 1970s have not only kept the smalltown character but have controlled new development. Heitkamp notes that these efforts also helped Larkspur maintain its beautiful surroundings. No longer set among tree stumps, the city is now resplendent in oaks, redwoods, madrones and other trees. Larkspur citizen groups have bought up the hills, Heitkamp says, "so that our backdrop for the city has also been preserved."

Of course, a city is more than its architecture, its setting, or its natural environment. Most of all, a city is its people. I am proud to say that the people of Larkspur are as charming, diverse and beautiful as the city itself.

The year-long centennial celebration will kick-off on Saturday, March 1, with a gala birthday party and parade from City Hall to Hall Middle School. The "Meet Me in Larkspur" centennial activities will continue throughout the summer and culminate with the city's famous Rose Bowl Dance, a tradition that made Larkspur a romantic destination for many years.

I am proud to represent the people of Larkspur, Madam Speaker, and I ask that you join me in congratulating them on their accomplishments of the past 100 years and wishing them the best for the next century.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION TAX ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5351, the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2008. With this legislation, we take another step forward in the fight to combat global warming and achieve energy independence.

It is critical to our Nation's future that we invest in the energy sources of the 21st century. H.R. 5351 does this by reforming the Tax Code to reflect America's energy priorities. The bill includes, extends, and expands tax incentives for biodiesel production, solar energy and fuel cell investment and energy efficiency improvements to existing homes. The bill also provides new incentives for plug-in hybrid vehicles and cellulosic ethanol production. These investments will help us achieve my goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 60–80 percent by 2050 in order to limit the effects of global warming.

In the interest of fiscal responsibility, H.R. 5351 pays for these investments in the energy resources of the future by cutting subsidies for industries that clearly need no help. The bill saves \$18 billion by ending tax loopholes and subsidies for multinational oil and gas companies which are already reaping huge, record profits. No longer will oil and gas companies be able to game the Tax Code by understating their income from foreign oil and gas extraction. These long overdue reforms send a clear message that oil and gas companies will no

longer get privileged treatment while Americans pay higher fuel prices and home heating costs.

H.R. 5351 also demonstrates that clean energy investments can create new jobs in addition to benefiting the environment. By extending the renewable energy production tax credit for wind, biomass, geothermal, and other renewable energy sources, the bill provides new opportunities for job growth in these areas. With its stellar research institutions and wealth of experts on engine design, Michigan has the potential to reap significant benefits from this legislation. Governor Jennifer Granholm has made clear her commitment to creating green-collar jobs through a renewable energy mandate and other reforms. I look forward to building on the progress made in this bill. With future reforms we can continue to reduce greenhouse emissions, secure our energy independence, and create new green industry jobs for Michigan and America.

IN HONOR OF OFFICER TODD M. MYERS, PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER MEDAL OF VALOR RECIPIENT

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a hero. Heroism is a word we use a lot these days, and in a world beset by such real and mounting dangers, it's understandable that we're always in the market for a guardian angel or two. Still, I believe we could all learn something from the real-life heroism of Officer Todd M. Myers of Simsbury, Connecticut.

On July 29, 2005, Officer Myers was out of uniform and making his way to work when he witnessed a dump truck careen out of control and race down Avon Mountain, scattering cars and bursting into flames. Driven by little else than his impulse to help, Officer Myers plunged himself into the harrowing crash site, cutting a trapped woman from her car while exploding gas tanks left him with first- and second-degree burns. Rescuing several others, Officer Myers stayed at the scene with the injured until proper paramedic care could be administered. No one told him to help, and he certainly was under no obligation to do so as an out-of-uniform officer—but none the less, Officer Myers was compelled to place the welfare of others before his own.

This past December, to honor his courage and selfless sacrifice, the President of the United States will bestow the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor to Officer Myers—an honor which has been bestowed on only a few of the most heroic Americans. Just as countless men and women risk their lives overseas every day in our military, men and women like Todd Myers carry the equally solemn duty of protecting America here in our towns, neighborhoods, and communities. We are all deeply indebted to Officer Myers and the unsung public safety officers across the country just like him, and I wish to extend my sincere congratulations to him and his family.